

ONE YEAR

IN

PYENG YANG WOMAN'S

BIBLE INSTITUTE

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION U. S. A.

PYENG YANG, CHOSEN

1918



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*Margaret Best*

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## FOREWORD.

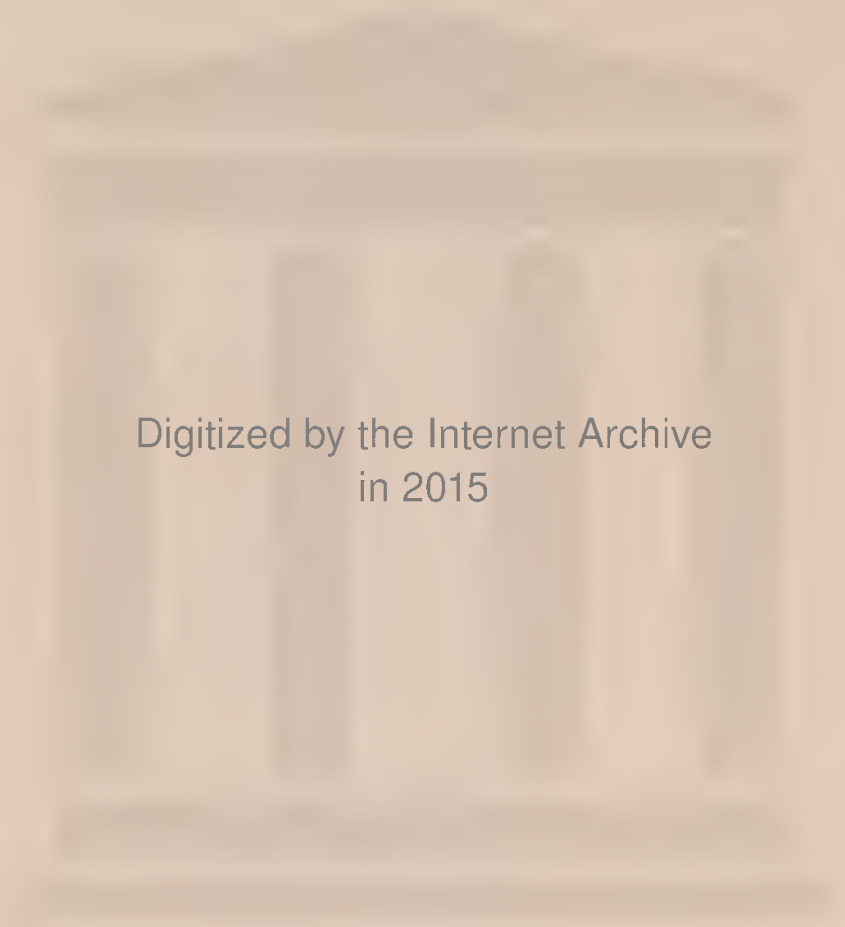
This report is published with the hope that it may serve to give to readers in the homeland a somewhat clearer and a more comprehensive idea than fragmentary reports can give of that form of woman's work which is designated in the Foreign Missions Year Book as "Evangelistic"; that it may add its testimony to that of others who seek to make known what the Gospel of Jesus Christ means to Oriental Women, what it does for them, and what they in turn gratefully try to do for others. It ought also to be said that this brief sketch will have failed to fulfil the purpose of the writer if it does not make clear that Korean women workers carried a large share of the responsibility and a still larger share of the work that was done last year in connection with the Pyeng Yang Institute.

MARGARET BEST

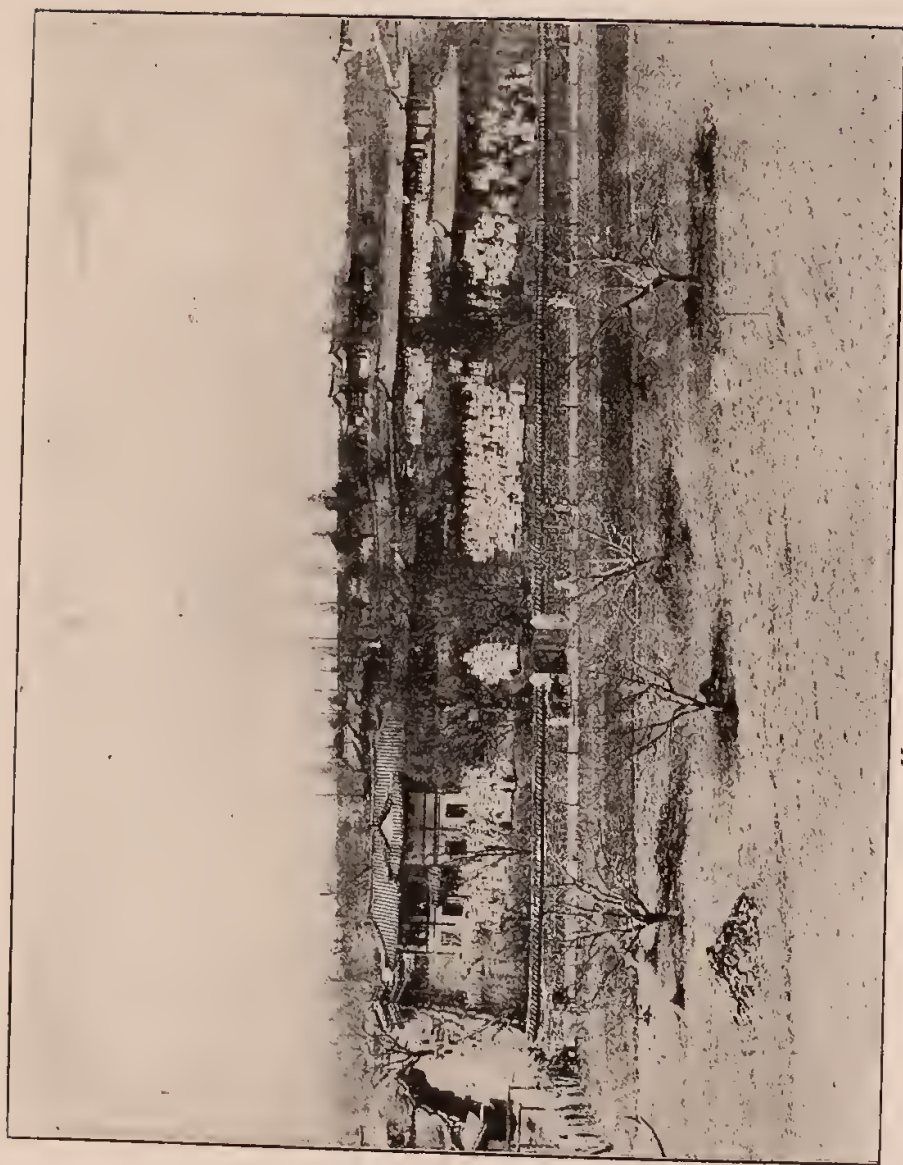
Superintendent of Institute.

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VIEW OF INSTITUTE COMPOUND.



## ONE YEAR IN PYENG YANG WOMAN'S BIBLE INSTITUTE.

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With the exception of the Sabbath School Assignments for all missionary women and the work several of them do in the Girls' Academy, the evangelistic activities of the Missionary women of Pyeng Yang find their center in the Bible Institute, which is conveniently situated in the midst of the Mission Compound, easy of access to the busy housewife and mother who perhaps has only one or two hours in the day when she can leave her home, and very near the home of the single women evangelistic workers.

The Institute Compound is beautiful spring and fall with trees and green lawn. The class buildings and dormitories in Korean style of architecture are attractive in appearance, and well-adapted to the uses to which they are put. It is a pleasant place to spend one's working hours, and after the years when our work was carried on in cramped quarters and other years when we did it in the confusion of building and all kinds of alterations, the quiet, order and convenience at last evolved are appreciated, and our heartiest thanks are given to the kind friends in America who have made it possible for us.

The term "Bible Institute" in Korea is rather an elastic one, used to designate anything from a class for Bible study lasting a month each year to a Bible School of six or nine months. The Woman's Institute in Pyeng Yang is more than a class and less than a school, if by "School" is meant the same number of people enrolled for study from the beginning of a long session to its close. It is a series of classes carried on at stated times through the year and year after year for different classes of people and to meet different needs and ending with a

three-months term each spring for those who have been previously prepared in the classes just mentioned to enter upon a Course of Bible Study from which they are graduated in five years. Through its Extension Department, Bible Correspondence Course and system of local classes it seeks to keep in touch with the women and girls of the city and country churches under care of the station and to do "its bit" in educating and training them in Christian truth and living from the time they first enter the church, and through them reaching out to the many others who have not yet become interested. It is a training school and center of Christian influence and inspiration for the rank and file of the women and girls of the church rather than an institution for training a comparatively small number from the great body of believers, although there are a few out of the thousands who are brought within its influence year after year who get in the various classes and the three months' term the full equivalent of a regular Bible School Course covering a period of two or three years, and in addition have the advantage of practical experience in direct evangelistic work in their churches during the part of the year they are not studying in Pyeng Yang. Such women become Bible women, pastors' assistants, Sunday School Teachers—some of them the trusted and invaluable helpers of missionaries, some of them employed by the Korean church, but most of them giving their time without material recompense.

Most of the teaching in the Institute is done by the missionary women of the Station, with occasional help from missionaries of other stations and by Korean Bible Women. Many of the lectures and devotional meetings are led by missionary men and women, by Korean pastors of the city churches and frequently by visitors both Korean and foreign.

The management of the Institute is in the hands of a Committee of five missionary ladies appointed by the station, the Chairman of the Committee as a rule serving as the Superintendent of the Institute. Different women of the station, not

necessarily members of the committee, are asked to take executive charge of the different classes. The organization is an elastic one giving opportunity for the exercise of every talent and taking advantage of however much or little time the women of the Station are able to give to work outside their homes.

Working in this way proves not only an economy of time and effort, but serves as an object lesson to the Korean women of what can be accomplished by working together and of the unity that should characterize the efforts of those who have the interests of the Master's kingdom at heart.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHES CLASS.

The year's work for the missionaries and their Korean associates begins properly in the early Fall and continues with few interruptions, though with change of locality during part of the winter, until the middle of June.

September is always the rallying time for the Sunday School Teachers of the city and country. They come from the mountain regions of far Tukchun and Koksan, from big Central Church in the city and from little Lotus Pond Church at the

city's southern edge. As we see their earnestness and watch them greeting each other so eagerly and gladly we marvel at the miracle that has transformed in a few years the ignorant, timid, narrow-visioned woman of the Orient into these bright, purposeful, laughing women of to-day, *still of the Orient*, and we realize anew that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, "to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

The class last year was attended by 290 women. For two weeks they studied in four sections Bible Catechism, the Gospel of John, First Corinthians, the Epistle of James, Lessons from the Life of Esther and Dr. R. A. Torrey's book on Bible Doctrine. The mornings were devoted to Bible Study and the afternoons to a singing lesson and lectures and Conferences on Sabbath School Methods and Work. How to teach women who cannot read, how to teach new believers, how to welcome the visitor in the class, what to do for children who are not in the Sunday School, how to teach children were some of the topics discussed in the Conferences.

Nine years ago when this class was first organized the Korean church was just beginning to commit the teaching of a very few classes of women and children to women—the Sunday School lesson as a rule being taught from the platform by the church leader, as is still the case in some of the weaker churches. With this small number of women we began our plan of instruction in Sunday School methods, although the women were so unused to the idea of teaching that they laughed at their being called teachers and were inclined to look upon the position as an honor thrust upon them and not as a responsibility for which they were in the least answerable. Little by little by precept and practice they began to understand something of the duties and privileges that belong to the position, and then the desire to fit themselves for the work became earnest and their efforts to make effective the ideas taught them met with success in many cases. To-day in a Conference on Sunday School Work some of the most valuable and practical ideas come from the Koreans themselves







WORKERS NORMAL TRAINING CLASS.

and not from the Missionaries. They feel the need of help and instruction, and we try by this class to meet their need and to urge them each year to still better service.

Some of the women of the Sunday School Teachers Class remain for the two weeks' class that immediately follows, called by the Koreans the "Preparation Study" and by us the "Workers' Normal Training Class." Others arrive in Pyeng Yang as the Sunday School Teachers are leaving for their homes and this second class opens a day or two later usually with over one hundred women present. The past year saw an attendance of 131 women. The class is composed of nine or ten women employed by missionaries as their personal Bible Women at a salary of not more than eight Yen (\$4.00) a month, about twenty women engaged by Korean Churches or by Korean Missionary Societies at a salary not often exceeding eight yen and often not more than four Yen, and about one hundred women who give their time free of charge to teaching from one to seven or eight weeks in Country Bible Study Classes. Each woman attends this class by personal invitation, and is invited each succeeding year if she proves herself an acceptable teacher. Only those are invited who have studied in the three months' term of the Institute or in the Sunday School Teachers' Class. In this way we draw only upon those who are already teachers in their home churches and by giving them some normal training each year with their Bible Study we try to prepare them for a broader service.

A new schedule of study is made out each year; the members of the class are taught this schedule and they in turn during the winter months teach the same lessons to women who gather in country churches for Bible Study Classes. The Course taught last year consisted of six lessons from the Sermon on the Mount and a simple Catechism for new believers, six lessons from the Gospel of John—Chapters fourteen to sixteen, six lessons from Acts—Chapters nine to twelve, for the next higher grade of women, and six lessons from the Life of Abraham and from

Second Corinthians for the highest grade. Topics for one devotional meeting and three practical talks on the subjects of Speaking the Truth, Sabbath Observance and Breaking with Evil Heathen Customs and Practices were prepared, Lesson Outlines on the Bible subjects were printed at an expense of Yen 67 and 77/100 (\$38.85 U. S. Gold) to the number of 22,000 sheets and a number given to each member of the class for distribution in the classes she would later hold in the country.

We find that these printed outlines consisting usually of the lesson subject, memory verse, leading questions, and lesson teachings are of great value in holding the women to the point when they are teaching. A tendency to wander or to indulge in generalities—the refuge of the poorly prepared teacher—is quickly detected and some faithful sister with a quiet word or two often draws the wanderer back to the point. Improvement in definiteness of teaching is due largely to the use of these outlines. They are a help to the country women also in fixing the teaching of the lesson and add greatly to the interest and profit of the classes. They are carried home after the class for the benefit of the family. The expense of the printing as well as some other necessary expense is provided by the Bible Institute fund given by Mr. Lyman Stewart.

While these Bible teachers are in Pyeng Yang, missionaries in charge of Country Bible Class Work make out with them a schedule of Bible Classes to be held during the winter in their circuits, fixing dates, deciding upon teachers and providing lesson sheets and other material. All these schedules are submitted for approval to the pastors in charge of country circuits. The ideal is a Bible Class of a week in each group and church under charge of the Station. This ideal has never yet been reached, although in some circuits classes for women have been held in all but a very few churches.

After this month of training and preparation in Pyeng Yang the workers—both Korean and American devote as much time as possible to work among the Country Churches. Through



the beautiful days of late October and November and the cold months of December, January and February, which is the season of comparative leisure in the farming communities of Korea, when the thermometer sometimes is below zero for weeks at a time and roads are covered with snow, by foot, jinricksha, Korean chair, train, public automobile and pony back a hundred or more Korean women and three or four Americans, usually two by two, pass and repass each other on their way to and from country churches where women gather for a week's study of the Bible. The past year Korean teachers held 157 such classes with an attendance of 6,653 women, and missionaries held sixteen (16) with an attendance of 1,362, making a total of 8,015 women and girls in country churches who attended Bible Classes. Some of the Classes number as few as 15 or 20 and some number about 200.

The church where the class is held entertains the teachers and often pays carfare and other expenses of the trip. In places where the church is not able to pay the expense, the missionary sending the teacher pays for an occasional carfare, for a meal or two along the way or a pair of shoes, the straw shoes of the women wearing out quickly on a long tramp.

In these classes many a woman discouraged in her fight against the old heathen ways that had bound her, and sometimes a woman who finds the way of the world easier than the straight and narrow path, catches fresh vision and takes new heart to go forward; many learn to read and love the Bible and all are taught its truths—so many of them new and wonderful to these women who have known nothing but the hopelessness, impurity, unloveliness and oppressiveness of heathenism.

During the three months when the work is being carried on in the country, the Bible Institute is used in part to accommodate a school for young married women and widows, who find time for a short period every year to come to Pyeng Yang for study. Last year 30 bright young women availed themselves of this opportunity, two of them returning in the Spring to enter



YOUNG WOMAN'S SCHOOL.

the three months' term of the Bible Institute. It is hoped that this school will be a feeder for the Bible Institute.

The class and dormitory buildings are used for six weeks in the winter to accommodate the overflow from the men's large Bible Training Class and Bible Institute.

In February the city work for women begins again with a class for the women and girls of the seven city churches. The Workers' Class schedule of study is taught here also. Five hundred and fifty women were enrolled last year. Four missionaries and a number of Korean women of the Workers' Class did the teaching. This class has been a feature of the city work for twenty years. It originated in the request of the first believers for a Bible Study Class at the Korean New Year season, so that the women still new in the faith might not be so exposed to the temptations of spirit-worship carried on in full force during the first two weeks of the New Year. It is now the one occasion of the whole year when the women of the seven churches have the





MARCH CLASS FOR COUNTRY WOMEN.



opportunity to meet together, and the time for fellowship is much appreciated by them and by the missionaries.

In February also is held a class for the wives of Korean pastors of Pyeng Yang field. This class too, originated several years ago in a request of the Korean Ministers' Association that the Bible Institute hold each year a short class for the wives of Korean pastors who were in need of help that they might the better be fitted to fulfill the duties of their position. It is an interesting class. The women are nearly all young women, the mothers of families, and there is usually a baby with the mother when she arrives, the grandmother or an older sister often coming to take care of the baby while the mother studies. They meet each day for prayer, conference and Bible study.

Being a smaller class than any other we hold in Pyeng Yang, it is possible to entertain them easily in Korean and missionary homes. Several of the most hospitable Christian homes in the city are opened to them, and many hours of their stay in Pyeng Yang are passed in social intercourse.

In early March comes the inspirational Bible Class and Conference of the year. It is open to all women and girls from country churches, whether Christians of long standing or people who have recently become interested. They come from far and near, with babies on their backs and a bundle of clothing and books or a bag of rice on their heads. Young girls who have been promised for years a sight of the big city and great company of Christian women, now at last see it all, and their eyes open wide with wonder. Some are accompanied by a man of the family carrying large bundles of bedding and rice for their use during the two weeks stay in Pyeng Yang. Some arrive in state in jinricksha or sedan chair, but most of them get in at eventide, footsore and weary from the long journey, but happy in the prospect of study and Christian fellowship.

This class has grown in twenty years from a small beginning of 26 women to an attendance of about 900, ~~885~~ women, 880 being the number enrolled last year. Dormitories and class-

rooms of the Institute are filled to overflowing, and many of the Christian homes of the city are opened for the entertainment of the country people.

All available missionaries and about twenty Korean Bible women teach the ten sections into which the class is divided. The Course of Study is a graded one, beginning with a Bible Catechism, the Gospel of Mark, and reading in the lowest division, and latter covering lessons in the Sermon on the Mount, parables and miracles of the Gospels, the Book of Acts, the Life of Christ, most of the Epistles, Lessons from the Revelation, and Old Testament characters. All but the women of the lowest division can read. Real teaching can be done and quite marked is the difference in knowledge between those of the the lowest and highest classes.



GOING HOME. HELPING EACH OTHER ADJUST BUNDLES.

Before the class closes every woman and girl in attendance will have been entertained in some missionary home—usually in that of the pastor from whose district they come. The entertainment consists of music either of piano, organ or victrola, sometimes games, of which the women are very fond, and which they learn easily, always light refreshments of tea, cake or fruit, and a hymn and prayer together before departure. And so in

classroom and home and country church the tie grows stronger that binds our hearts in Christian love, and the missionary often pauses to utter a little prayer of thanksgiving



ALL READY TO START HOME.

that her lot has fallen among a people so friendly and so receptive of the Gospel Message and so loyal—so many of them—to the truth they have accepted.

The closing day of the class presents an interesting sight, the women leaving about noon in companies for their homes, calling out to each other good wishes for the journey, some of them parting in tears, but most of them smiling, and promising to see each other

again next year.

Just a week to take out the mats from dormitories and class rooms, give the buildings a thorough cleaning in preparation for the three months' session of the Institute, and then the final effort of the year begins. The, last week in March sees the arrival of the women who have entered upon the five years' Course of Study. Besides our own Pyeng Yang women there are usually women from Chai Ryung and from some of the Southern Stations and occasionally from Kang Kei.

Last year there was an attendance of 70 women, and the last month of the time 24 graduates returned for further study.

Most of the latter are actively employed in the work of their home churches and are glad to have this opportunity for study each year. They need the contact also with others who are engaged in similar work, to stimulate and encourage them; for the daily conflict with heathenism and the struggle to help those who are trying to cast off its fetters wear upon soul and spirit. The month spent each year in Pyeng Yang refreshes and strengthens their hearts, as well as adds to their store of knowledge.



POURING OUT OF INSTITUTE GATE ON WAY HOME, LITTLE CHILD IN FOREGROUND THINKS SHE HAS LOST HER MOTHER IN THE CROWD.

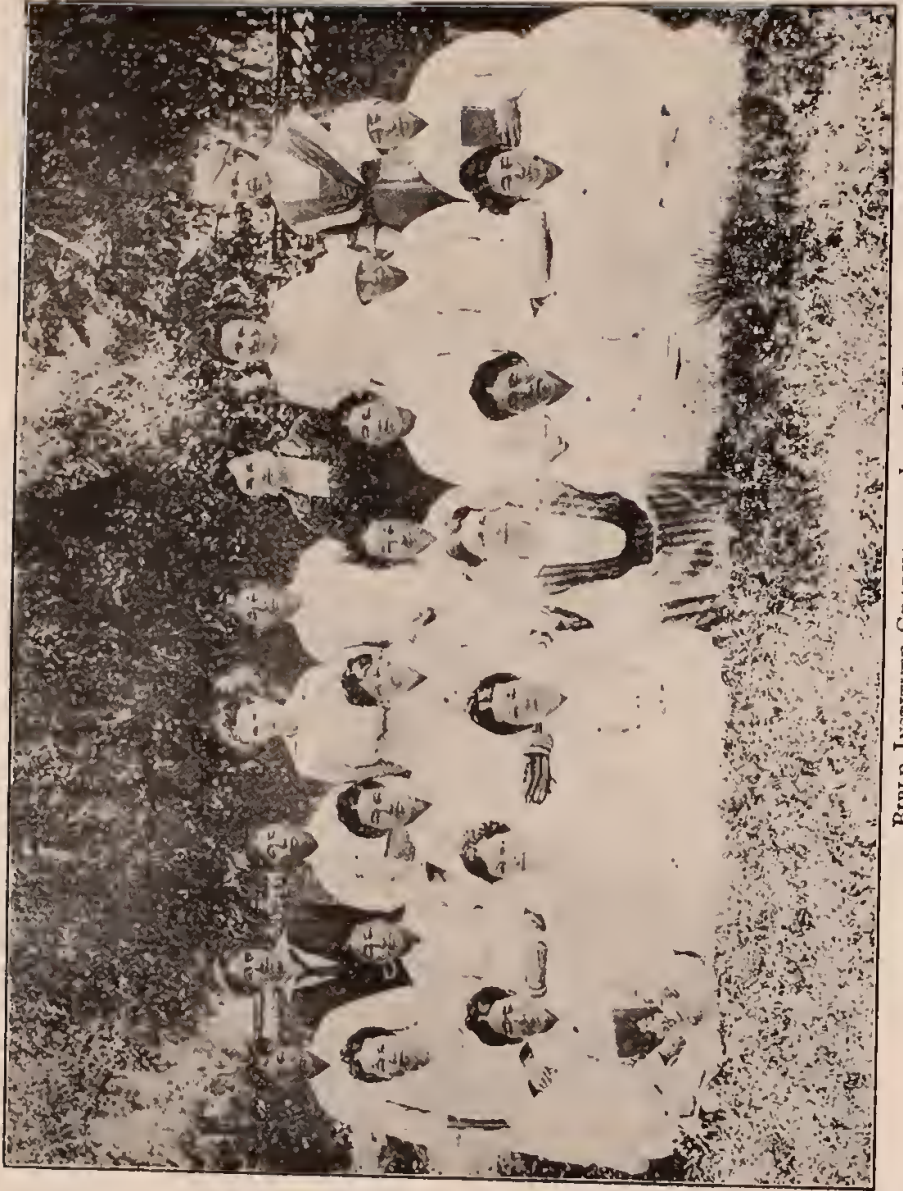
The requirements for entrance to the three months' term of the Institute are such that only women who have been baptized at least one year, who can read, and who have done some church work are admitted.

In this way we get the women who are approved by the Korean Church leaders themselves and who are already trying to be of use in the Christian community.

In June a class of 16 women was graduated, 3 women from Chai Ryung Station of our Mission, 1 woman from the Canadian Presbyterian Mission in Ham Kyeng Province whose husband was studying in the Theological Seminary in Pyeng Yang, and 12 women of our own territory. It was the sixth graduating







BIBLE INSTITUTE GRADUATES. JUNE 1917.

class, making a total of 66 women who have received diplomas.

The Bible Institute graduates are doing good work. In the Bible Training Classes they are proving our best teachers. The church leaders look to them for service among the women of the church and community. It is only an occasional graduate who is not giving freely of her time to such service, most of it done quietly but faithfully and with profit to the church. Many a weak Christian is the "little sister" of such a woman and is led past the wavering, uncertain period of Christian experience by the counsel, prayers, and persistent helpfulness of the "big sisters" into certainty and steadfastness of Christian life.

The running expenses of the Institute for the whole year including upkeep of buildings and equipment amount to about nine hundred Yen (\$450.00 U. S. Gold), of which sum fees from the women amount to about two hundred Yen, leaving about seven hundred Yen (\$350.00) received from foreign sources. It would not be possible to carry on the large work for this small sum were it not for the fact that all the women who pass through the Institute each year buy their own books, furnish their own bedding, and pay their living expenses including fuel, light and water used in the dormitories.

The dormitory rooms are comfortable, arranged with a kitchen attached to each room in which the women of the room can prepare and cook their own food utilizing in economical Korean fashion the heat from the kitchen fireplace to heat their living room. Bathrooms and laundry conveniences in Korean style with an abundance of pure running water from the city supply add to comfort and health. The dormitories accommodate one hundred women. There are never more than one hundred applicants at one time except at the time of the country class in March, and then hundreds of women who cannot get rooms in the dormitories find entertainment in the homes of Christian Koreans in the city.

After they are once settled in the dormitories the life is a pleasant and a busy one, the women as a rule living amicably and



PYENG YANG MISSIONARIES.

Front row beginning at left :—Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Phillips, Miss Hartness (Teacher in School for Missionaries Children).

Middle row beginning at left :—Mrs. Swallen, Mrs. Welbon, Miss Snook, Miss Swallen, Mrs. A. W. Gillis, Mrs. Mowry, Mrs. Holdcroft.

Back row beginning at left :—Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Reiner, Miss Cleland (Principal of School for Missionaries' Children) Madam Gillis, Miss Doriss, Miss Best.

Mrs. Bernheisel, Mrs. Moffett and Mrs. Smith not present.

enjoyably together, forming strong ties of friendship which are kept unbroken through the years.

With this longer period of study the work of the year closes, and we have time to stop and think what it all means. It is a work that draws many within the circle of its influence. No one may measure the greatness of the opportunity. Here Eastern and Western women learn to know each other, to love and respect each other, and to work shoulder to shoulder for others in the service of the Master. It is not all success and sunshine ; failure sometimes and shadow bring hours of regret and anxiety. Mistakes are made that take time to set right and some can never be set right. They can only be over-ruled by one who is All-wise. May we ever look to Him for guidance.

Pyeng Yang—January 1918.

WOMAN'S BIBLE INSTITUTE, PYENG YANG,  
CHOSEN.

COURSE OF STUDY FOR THREE MONTHS' TERM.

*First Year.*

Gospel of Luke, The Acts, New Testament Geography,  
Outlines of Genesis, Writing, Arithmetic.

*Second Year.*

Gospel of John, First and Second Corinthians, Exodus,  
Old Testament Geography, Writing, Arithmetic.

*Third Year.*

Life of Christ, Hebrews, Epistles of John, Titus, Philemon,  
Old Testament Geography, Old Testament History, Physiology  
and Hygiene, Arithmetic.

*Fourth Year.*

Romans, Galatians, Isaiah, Old Testament History, Bible  
Doctrine, Physiology and Hygiene, Arithmetic.

*Fifth Year.*

First and Second Thessalonians, First and Second Peter,  
Revelation, Daniel, Zechariah, Old Testament History, Bible  
Doctrine, Physiology and Hygiene.

Lectures one hour each week—Subjects:—Protestant  
Missions, Personal Work, Preparation of Food, Care of Sick.

SINGING LESSONS.

HOME READING COURSE.

|                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| For First Year Students  | Matthew's Gospel.                  |
| For Second Year Students | Genesis                            |
| For Third Year Students  | First and Second Timothy, Joshua.  |
| For Fourth Year Students | Ephesians, First and Second Kings. |

The Home reading Course given above is taken only by those who are enrolled in the Five Years' Course of the Bible Institute.

The Home Correspondence Course which Dr. and Mrs. Swallen conduct for men and women of all the churches under care of Pyeng Yang station is open to any women who attends any of the classes held in connection with the Bible Institute. This course covers the books of the Old and New Testaments—and those entering the department may take as much or as little time to complete the course as their circumstances allow. The purpose of the department is to help and encourage systematic Bible Study among the church membership.

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目錄





11th + 12th

Bibley (British Museum) finds mud layer (flood) at Ur of Chaldees. Implications of system above and below. Above Sumerian - below distinct, uniform well formed civilization. Langford (Oxford) layer at Kish. List of kings - beginning of rule in line - line - flood came up - line continued.

Hyksos kings - shepherd kings - receive shepherd Arabian well.

Nar - on Gen. 14 found in tablets.

Egyptians made only build with mud. But in Pithon (near Suez) all brick are laid in 1" thick mortar (which is covered) with plaster. Lower brick mixed with straw, next bricks, top pure mud.

Tunnel of Hengfuch from Virginia references to Pool of Solomon discovered. Earliest Hebrew inscription - that of tunnel builders.

Herodotus names Belshazzar as king of Babyl. Dan I names Belshazzar.

1st tablet - Belshazzar title of 1st son as Belshazzar. 2nd tablet - Belshazzar is commander of army - father incompetent. 3rd tablet - Belshazzar associated with father. 4th tablet - at time of Persian conquest Belshazzar army on distant expedition - Belshazzar entrusted with sovereignty. Dan I 3rd ruler in kingdom - Belshazzar, Belshazzar, Dan I.

Caperman (Tel Hadya) tablet is - speech of Yafet is name of man - "Your father's name is Yafet - my name is Dan."